

# KOSCIUSKO CHRONICLE.

G. W. Marlow, Editor.

Thursday, June 11, 1846.

## Common Schools.

We had hoped the course adopted by the Board of Police, at its last meeting, for obtaining the sense of the heads of families in this Township, in regard to the matter of levying a tax for the support of Common Schools, would have been concurred in by the citizens of the Township generally. Indeed the only ground which induced the Board of Police to postpone levying the Tax, was an understanding that neither the friends nor the opponents of the measure should take any active part for or against it: but that a person (S. Durham) selected for that purpose, should take two petitions, one for and one against the measure, and go to each head of a family in the township, and simply ask each one whether or not he or she is willing for a Tax, not to exceed in any case the State Tax, to be levied on the citizens and property of the Township, for the support of Common Schools within the Township? But it would seem that the opponents of the measure are not willing to risk its fate upon so fair a plan; therefore they have gotten up a petition setting forth all sorts of grievances, and (we will forbear using harsh words) very incorrect statements. We have been requested to correct some of those misstatements, with which request we most willingly comply, being always anxious to serve the cause of education to the best of our humble abilities.

The School Fund of this Township arising from the sale of the Sixteenth Section, is about forty-four hundred dollars. By the new law the county Treasurer is made the Treasurer of each Township, respectively. Thus they contend, by what authority we know not, that the Treasurer's commissions for receiving and disbursing this 4400 dollars, at five per cent, will amount to 220 dollars. But is such the fact? We most emphatically say, No! This fund is all secured, and bears interest at the rate of eight per cent. By an order of the Board of Trustees passed last winter, and which will probably be renewed by the Board of School Commissioners, all those indebted to said fund in a larger sum than two hundred dollars, are required to pay in annually ten per cent of the principal, until each debtor who is indebted to the fund in a sum over two hundred dollars, shall reduce his indebtedness to that amount. The amount which will probably be paid in for a few years under this order, will not exceed 220 dollars annually. The interest is about 350 dollars annually; and there will probably be paid in this year about 400 dollars, the amount of a Judgment the Township holds against Richard Ross; which will make in all 970 dollars, which amount may possibly, but not probably, be swelled to 1200 dollars by payments of principal made by borrowers. Assuming this 1200 dollars then, as the amount which will be paid in and disbursed in one year, and the Treasurer's commissions will only amount to sixty dollars, at the five per cent which they have seen proper to allow. But where do they get the authority for allowing the Treasurer this five per cent for receiving and disbursing? Certainly not in the Common School Law. The Legislature never intended, by passing this law, to make the office of County Treasurer a sinecure, which would be the case if he was allowed five per cent commissions for receiving and disbursing the School Funds of the different Townships in the county. There are about twenty-four Sixteenth Sections in this county, and allowing each Sixteenth, except this, to be worth government price, and they would all amount to 22,800 dollars, and the commissions, at five per cent, to 1140 dollars; and this, too, in addition to the Treasurer's perquisites from the county Treasury. But to go still farther, and take for instance one of the rich cotton growing counties, where the land is worth at least five times the amount set down for this county, and the County Treasurer's commissions on the School Fund alone would be 5,700 dollars!!! the greatest sinecure of an office in the State, or even within the U. States, for the commissions on county taxes would swell the amount to about 7000 dollars, and this is a greater salary than the Vice President of the United States receives, or any other officer in the United States, with the exception of the President, (which is no sinecure) and the Governor of Louisiana, if indeed his salary has not been reduced under the new Constitution of that State.

But to show that the Legislature did not intend, and has not made, the office of County Treasurer, or of School Commissioner, a sinecure, we here insert the Section of the law regulating these officers pay, to wit:

Sec. 14. Be it further enacted, That said school commissioners and said treasurers shall not, themselves, either directly or indirectly, be the borrowers of any monies belonging to said school fund, and shall receive such compensation for their services as the boards of police of their respective counties may order and allow, to be paid out of the school fund.

Where now, reader, is your objection to the Common School Law, on the ground that it takes nearly all of the available funds to pay the Treasurer's commissions? Indeed, for our part, we don't believe you ever had any objections to it on that ground; that it was all subterfuge; that your objection lies deeper and nearer the heart.

We intend to continue this subject in our next, and would simply ask of those who are opposed to the measure, to pause, examine and understand the matter better before they sign the petition against it, lest by so signing they should put their names, and give credit, to that which is not true in point of fact. We have heard of some who are so bitterly opposed to the Law as to threaten proscription to some of those in favor of it, and even repudiation itself. To such, we would say, curb your passions and remember that by so doing you would only "bite off your nose to spite your face." "Persons living in glass houses should not throw stones." If a majority of the heads of families are in favor of the measure let it go into effect; and if a majority are opposed to it, then let it drop. The majority must rule, and it is better to give way to them, than to stand out against them and bring down upon our heads the maledictions and execrations of all just and good men.

Our columns are open to all well written communications on this subject, on either side. Let the people have light.

PROTRACTED MEETING.—The Methodists are now holding a protracted meeting at this place. It commenced on Saturday last, and has afforded encouragement sufficient to induce the Elders to keep it up to the present writing, and we understand it is the intention to hold on for several days longer yet. Help is much wanted, and has been sent for.

Extensive Preparation for War—Arms for the Gulf Defences.—On Saturday night, and during the entire day of Sunday, says the *Pittsburg Chronicle*, a large number of wagons were employed in conveying arms and ammunition of various kinds from the Arsenal to the river, where they are being shipped on board the steamers *Talisman* and *Hatchee Eagle*, and directed to Forts Monroe, St. Philip, and other defences on the Gulf. Hundreds of boxes of rifles and muskets, together with immense quantities of mounted artillery, etc., have been ordered by the government from the Arsenal at Pittsburg to our Southwestern frontier. We understand further that the utmost activity at present prevails at the Arsenal in order to furnish the requisite amount immediately. The workmen are employed day and night in casting balls, preparing cartridges, and manufacturing arms of various kinds.

A correspondent of the *Baltimore American*, writes from Washington as follows:

"The President has ordered 43,500 men in all, to be enrolled and made ready to be called into the public service at any moment. This includes the troops already called out from the southwest, and the additional number will be from other sections of the Union. New York will be called upon for eight regiments, Pennsylvania for six, and so on.

"Two millions of money more you will observe have been asked for by the Chairman of the committee on Ways and Means to feed and clothe 8000 men added last week to the rank and file of the Standing Army, and for the Oregon regiment of mounted volunteers."

Commander of the Gulf Squadron. We find the following paragraph in the *Richmond Enquirer* of the 19th:

"A gentleman just from Washington informs us that Com. Perry has been appointed to the command of the Fleet in the Mexican Gulf—Com. Conner having been placed over the Ordnance Department; and that it is most probable that none of the volunteers from the Atlantic States will be sent at present to Texas. They will be received, and disciplined, and held ready for action."

War Steamers.—Mr. King, of Georgia, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill on the 20th inst., in the House, praying an appropriation for the building of thirteen vessels of war—twelve iron steamers, and one iron sailing frigate. The average cost of the of the steamers is estimated at \$400,000 each. [*N. O. Bulletin*].

[From the N. O. Delta.]

## From the Seat of War.

Late Arrival—Matamoras taken without opposition—Mexican Soldiers Deserting in great numbers—Additional particulars of the Actions of the 8th and 9th—Indian Disturbances, &c.

The steamship *Telegraph* is just in. From the following synopsis of the latest news from the seat of war, it will be seen that the *Rubicon*, or rather, the *Rio Grande*, is crossed by the advanced division of our gallant army, and that the enemy flies before them—deserting their towns and forts, and permitting them to fall into the possession of our army without a defensive shot. The glorious and well-fought battles of the 8th and 9th, have struck terror into the enemy, and decided, it would appear, the fate of the campaign. This is not what our brave fellows want: they would like to meet foemen worthy of their steel; but will they?

POINT ISABEL, May 16, 1846.

Messrs. Editors—I have been at this point for two days, and during that time have been trying to pick up information that would be of interest to you and your readers. I wrote you a few lines immediately after my arrival here, before I got ashore, which I find to be in many respects incorrect. I received the information I sent you from naval officers who boarded us immediately on our arrival off the point. I find the facts of the two battles fought with the Mexicans on the 8th and 9th instant to have been more sanguine, and the loss on the part of the Americans to have been much greater than was at first reported, and that of the Mexicans to have been something less. The loss on the American side was 480 killed, wounded and prisoners, including 20 or 30 officers; and on the Mexican side from 1200 to 1500 killed, wounded and taken prisoners. The Mexicans have been much underrated by the American people. They stood their ground like men—filling up their ranks as fast as they were mowed down by our artillery, in whole platoons.

This victory is considered by military men here to be the most brilliant ever achieved on the American Continent. Gen. Taylor was at the head of his army during both engagements.

I have just taken a look through the hospital; the sight is truly heart-rending. Among other horribly mutilated persons, I observed in one ward seven men with but three legs among them. There are several Mexicans among the wounded who are taken as good care of as the Americans, and are regularly attended by the army surgeons.

An express arrived from Gen. Taylor this morning—the purport of which is that the Mexicans have all retired beyond the *Rio Grande*, and fortified themselves strongly at *Matamoras*. General Taylor is concentrating all his forces so as to make an attack on *Matamoras*, which will take place in a day or two—it will be the most important battle during the campaign. Col. Wilson of the U. S. A., left here yesterday for *Barrita* with four companies of regulars and two companies of volunteers, of the Washington Regiment, (Capts. Stockton's and Tobin's.) There are at this point two companies, (regulars,) 1st artillery under the command of Lieut. Hooker; eight companies of the Washington Regiment, and Capt. Head's company, of the Jackson Regiment, all under command of Col. J. B. Walton, and Lieut. Col. H. Forno.

The Volunteers are well and in good spirits. The Louisiana Volunteers are eager for the fray—all well. Yours, S.

The relative forces of the two armies on the 8th and 9th were 1700 Americans and 7000 Mexicans.

I write in camp, on a chair, or bed, or anything, or with any thing I can find. The information I send you, you may rely upon as being as near correct as any that can possibly be had, as I use all industry to procure full and correct information, and if you can so condense or shape it as to make it publishable, it will do me great pleasure to serve you—you may probably appreciate the disadvantages under which I write.

Yours, truly, G. W. S.

[From the Galveston News, May 21.]

The pilot boat *L. M. Hitchcock*, Capt. Wright, which left this city with Capt. Snell's company on Saturday morning last, returned yesterday, having left *Brazos Santiago* last Thursday at 6 P. M. We get the following information from Capt. Wright:

Gen. Taylor crossed on the 18th; took the town of *Barrita*, with little or no resistance, on the same day. On the 19th it was reported that three thousand men had crossed the river, and none of the volunteers had yet gone over. Gen. Taylor was on the other side. He intends, as we understand, to proceed immediately to the city of *Matamoras*, which he expects to take with-

out the fire of a gun. Nothing further has been heard of the reinforcements that were reported to be on their way to the relief of *Ampudia*.

Capt. Sympton found a Mexican a few days since in a thicket. As soon as he was discovered he threw away his arms, saying that he had been fighting a month with nothing but bread and water for provisions, that he now wished to surrender to the Americans, as he would fight no longer under the Mexican government, and that two thirds of the whole Mexican force wishes to do the same.

The steamer *Sea* arrived there on the 19th from New Orleans, filled with volunteers, the steamer *Alabama* left on the same day for New Orleans.

The steamer *Telegraph* is expected here this evening. When Capt. Wright left there she was then raising steam to get off—she was slightly aground.

[From the Galveston News, Extra.]

## Matamoras Taken.

The steamship *Telegraph* has just arrived from Point Isabel. Through the politeness of her obliging clerk, we have been furnished with the following information:

Reports, that on the 17th inst., a detachment of 300 Regulars and 350 Volunteers proceeded to *Barrita* and took possession of it, and established a military depot. In the night of the 19th an express arrived from Gen. Taylor, stating that he had crossed the *Rio Grande* and taken the city of *Matamoras*, without opposition, the Mexicans having fled from the city.

The Mexicans, from last accounts, were deserting their ranks in battalions.

Two American Regiments, with the exception of about 350, having marched a few days previous, were stationed at the *Brazos Point*, awaiting the orders of Gen. T., and it was thought they would leave on the 20th for *Matamoras*, via the old *Barrita* road.

Col. McIntosh, Capt. Page, and all the others that were wounded in the actions of the 8th and 9th, are at Point Isabel, and were recovering.

The *Telegraph* is just 26 hours from Point Isabel.

Capt. Auld, of the *Telegraph* who has had opportunities for obtaining correct information, has given us some interesting particulars in relation to our army operations which we have now scarcely time to allude to.

The escape of Capt. Thornton, at the time his company was so badly cut up, is almost incredible. After carrying him safely over the high hedge enclosure, into which he had been decoyed, his horse bore him swiftly over several other fences and deep ravines, swimming the *Rio Grande* above *Matamoras*, then passing down below the town on the opposite side, in attempting to leap a broad ditch he missed his footing, when both horse and rider were thrown. By the fall Capt. T. was so stunned that he was soon after taken up by the Mexicans perfectly unconscious of what had happened. After the battle of the 9th he was exchanged, and restored to our army.

Capt. A. thinks the whole number of our killed and wounded must amount to more than 300. Besides the wounded taken to St. Joseph's, there are now about 40 at Point Isabel too badly wounded to be removed—all but three, it is thought, will recover. There are three Mexican prisoners having but one leg between them all. After being shot in the arm, Col. McIntosh received a bayonet wound in the mouth, which passed through one side of his head. There are hopes of his recovery.

The condition of the brave and esteemed Capt. Page is melancholy indeed. The whole of his lower jaw, with a part of his tongue and palate, is shot away by a grape shot. He, however, survives, though entirely incapable of speech. He communicates his thoughts by writing on a slate, and receives the necessary nutriment for the support of life with much difficulty. He does not desire to live, but converses with cheerfulness and exultation upon the success of our arms, and concluded an answer to some inquiries concerning the battle of the 9th, by writing: "We gave the Mexicans h—ll."

All our accounts represent the Mexicans as having fought on the 8th and 9th with courage and desperation that would have reflected credit upon the troops of any nation. They were nearly in a state of starvation, and had been promised the ample supplies of the American camp, in case they would secure the victory. They met the charges of our troops manfully, and stood the destructive fire that was poured in upon them without giving way, until the works were incumbered with the dead and wounded.

The Bremen barque *Carlos Williams* was cast away near Galveston; vessel and cargo totally lost; one woman and two children drowned.

[From the Washington Union, 5th ult.]

## Military Arrangements.

During the week the most active preparations have been made to give effect to the measures of Congress for a vigorous prosecution of the war with Mexico. We do not doubt that the large discretion given to the President, will be found to be in safe hands. While the care will be taken to consult economy, and to secure a force competent to the protection of the national honor, and to a speedy termination of the war, we do not apprehend that half the authorized number of troops will be immediately mustered into service. True economy and a due regard to the highest national interests, however, make it indispensable that a force shall be at once put into active service, extraordinary for us in point of numbers, and so large that officers of the highest rank will of necessity be in command. From the mixed character of the corps—partly of regular troops, and more largely of volunteers—it seems natural that the general-in-chief of the army, should take the field—and we presume that Gen. Scott will, as a matter of course assume the command.

We understand that the volunteer troops to be immediately called into service will be taken from the States nearest to the scene of operations, and for them the necessary orders have been issued. Measures have also been taken to have the residue of the authorized force organized, to be called into the service of their country at the shortest notice, if the public exigencies require. We understand that portions will be called for from each State and Territory, so that an opportunity will be afforded to all her gallant sons to participate in the defence of their country.

MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS.—The offers made to the President, and to the War Department, of the services of volunteers, the applications for appointment as officers, and the inquiries as to the strength, organization, etc., of volunteers, are so numerous, that it has become impossible to answer them with promptness. The following is therefore published for general information:

The President has deemed it best to call for such volunteers as are required from particular States, through their Governors; as, from their generally superior information, they can best judge of the relative efficiency of the different corps, and which of them can, with the greatest facility and least expense be embodied for the service for which they are needed. The President has no power to appoint officers of volunteers—the law requires that they be appointed by the proper authorities of the States, in the manner prescribed by their laws. The offers of services, and the applications for appointments, should therefore be made to the Governors of the States and Territories.

Those who propose to tender their services should be first enrolled and organized in regiments, or battalions where a battalion is designated in the quota called for from a State. When this is done, they will tender their services through the Governor of the State, who will give notice thereof to the President, or Secretary of War. They will be duly informed of the acceptance of their offer by the President and notified to be ready to be called into service when the public exigencies may require. Their pay will commence when actually called and mustered into service, and not before.

Volunteers are required by law to furnish their own clothing, and, if cavalry, their own horses and horse equipments; but none under the rank of a commissioned officer will be received into service, who is years, are under eighteen or over forty-five; and no horse but such as are perfectly sound and in good condition to render effective service. No particular dress is prescribed for volunteers. They are at liberty to adopt such an uniform as they think proper, but it is advisable that those entering the service adapt their dress, as well as may be, to the nature of the service and the character of the country and climate to which they may be called. When called into service, they are armed and equipped at the expense of the United States. [*Union*].

CALIFORNIA.—The Mexican traders who arrived at St. Louis on the 19th from Chihuahua and Fort Laramie, represented that a strong inclination is manifested among the people of California, to throw off the Mexican authority, and to come under the government of the United States; that the disposition of the people in the upper provinces is decidedly in favor of a more liberal form of government, and that Santa Fe, in particular, would gladly throw off all allegiance. Nothing had been heard from the gulf coast, though troops had been leaving the city of Mexico for *Matamoras*. [*N. O. Bulletin*].